



Building a Communication Rights Movement

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



Vision

Communication for All

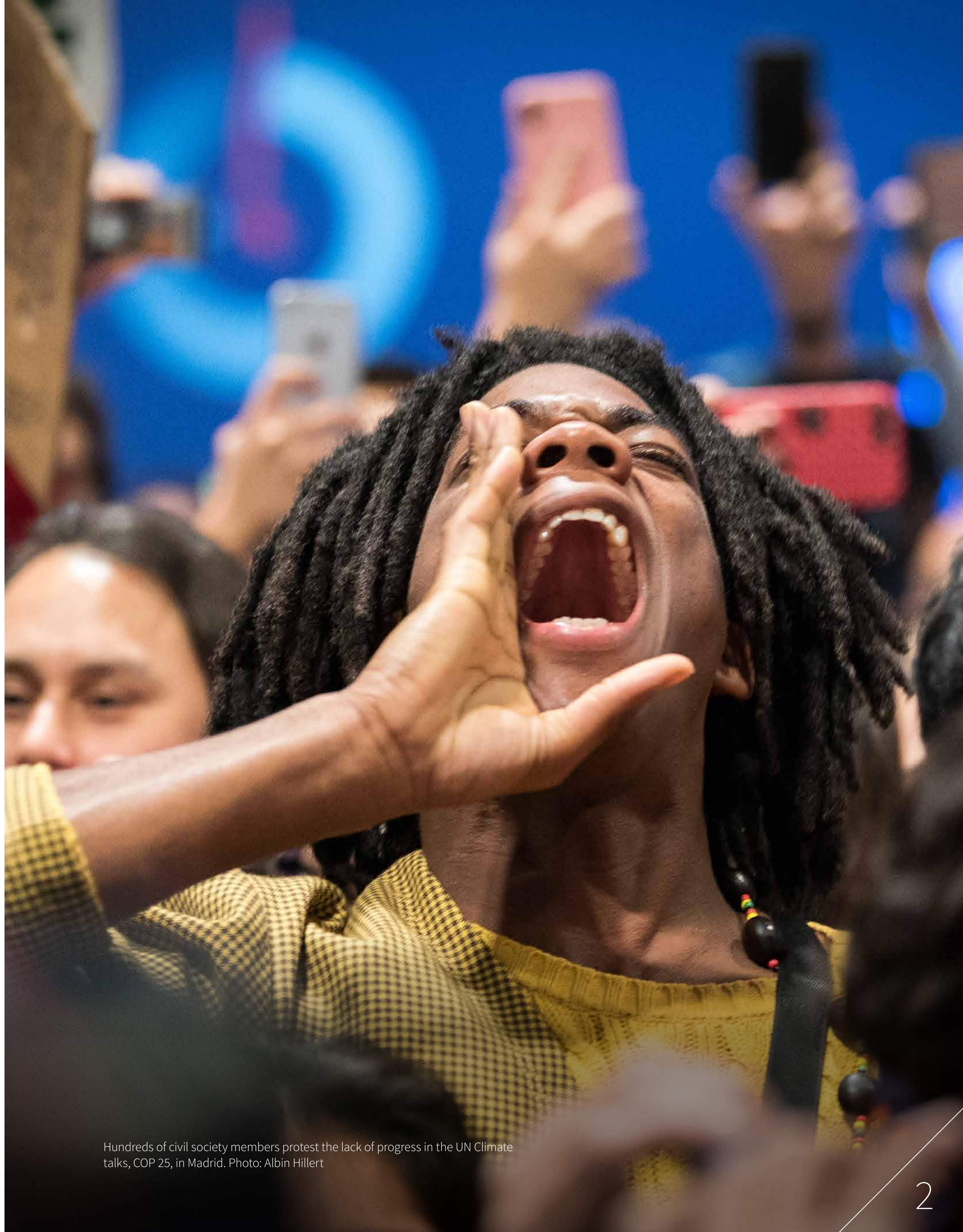
Mission

The World Association for Christian Communication (WACC) is an international non-governmental organization that promotes communication as a basic human right, essential to people's dignity and community. Rooted in Christian faith, WACC works with all those denied the right to communicate because of status, identity, or gender. It advocates full access to information and communication and promotes open and diverse media. WACC strengthens networks of communicators to advance peace, understanding and justice.

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Front cover: Young Bhutanese takes a photo of an event at the Beldangi refugee camp in the Jhapa district of Nepal, which hosts more than 5,000 Bhutanese refugees and is supported by the Lutheran World Federation, a member of ACT Alliance. WACC helps to build a communication rights movement by empowering people, especially the marginalised, to advance their democratic participation in matters that affect them. Photo: Albin Hillert



Hundreds of civil society members protest the lack of progress in the UN Climate talks, COP 25, in Madrid. Photo: Albin Hillert

Message from the General Secretary



Philip Lee
WACC General Secretary

In 2001, in a booklet titled “In search of common values,” former WACC President Albert van den Heuvel wrote:

“Today, more than at any other time, we are aware of the collective destinies of the human race. There is a lot that can be gained from forging understandings across the many divides of tradition, beliefs, memory, history and culture. We must understand that there is room for universals as well as for diversity; that there are different ways of reaching and achieving universals; and that tolerance, respect, and understanding are common to all cultures.”

Nearly two decades later, the climate emergency has brought into sharp focus the fact that the human race shares a collective destiny. Ongoing conflicts in many countries continually remind us of that fact and so the need for greater tolerance, respect, and understanding is urgent. That is where WACC has a key role to play.

WACC’s slogan “Communication for All” is being taken to a new level in the idea of a new sustainable development goal to add to the 17 devised by the United Nations. SDG 18’s goal is to “Expand and strengthen public civic spaces through equitable and affordable access to communication technologies and platforms, media pluralism, and media diversity.”



Its targets would be:

- To ensure the existence of spaces and resources for men and women, in particular the poor and vulnerable, to engage in transparent, informed, and democratic public dialogue and debate.
- To ensure the existence of regimes where creative ideas and knowledge are encouraged and can be communicated widely and freely to advance social justice and sustainable development.
- To ensure protection for the dignity and security of people in relation to communication processes, especially concerning data privacy and freedom from surveillance.
- To ensure communication spaces for diverse cultures, cultural forms and identities at the individual and social levels.

This is a logical extension of WACC’s long-standing Principles of Communication, which affirm, “The centrality of communication – including mass, community and social media – in strengthening human dignity and in promoting democratic values and social justice.”

The challenge for all of us today is to exercise moral leadership by finding new ways of pursuing the values that WACC embraces as well as of “forging understandings across the many divides of tradition, beliefs, memory, history and culture.”

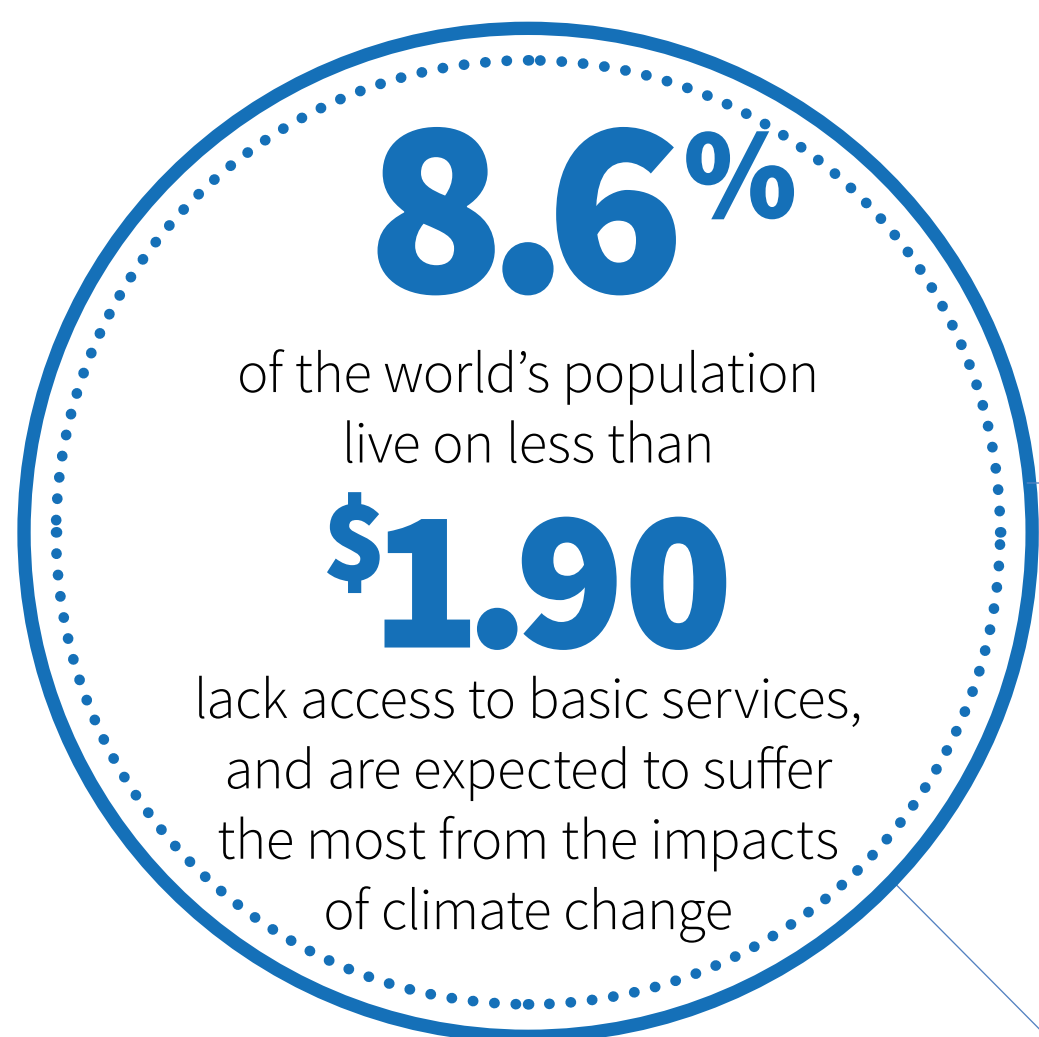
In particular, how can communication for all help achieve the sustainable development goals? How can communication rights help advance gender equality? How can communication rights help alleviate the climate crisis? How can digital ethics help create a fairer and more just world?

WACC General Secretary Philip Lee (far left).
Photo: Gregg Brekke

Nila Boti, a mother of four from Bangladesh, grows her vegetables in a ring-garden to ensure that they are protected when floodwaters rise. Photo: Department for International Development/Rafiqur Rahman Raq



In a world where...



70.8 million people have been forcibly displaced from their homes

0 countries have achieved gender equality and women's visibility in the news has stagnated at **24%**

At least **554 journalists** have been killed between 2010-2019, and more than

250 others imprisoned in 2019 alone

About **43%** of the estimated **6,000** languages are endangered

2.8 billion people use social media

4.5 billion people, or about **58%** of the global population have access to the Internet

419 million Facebook users' data were left unprotected in 2019, even as Facebook and other tech companies continue to profit from using and selling users' personal information.

Meanwhile Facebook's net worth has reached more than **\$593 billion**; Google's net worth: **\$309 billion**

WACC and its Centre for Communication Rights are committed to building a communications movement for all.

We believe that **everyone** has the **right** to **communicate** and to be in communication, in the same way that they have the right to **food, shelter, and security.**

In strategic alliances, we aim to be a **catalyst for change** for the common **good**, sharing **information, knowledge, and experience** in the field of communication.

Highlights in 2019:

79 grassroots organizations in **29** countries received financial and material support for communication-rights related projects reaching tens of thousands of marginalized people and communities.

39 community radio stations, many of them Indigenous,

23 women's organizations and

17 communication rights civil society organizations partnered with us for these projects

Hundreds of volunteers from **128 countries** so far will take part in the **2020 Global Media Monitoring Project**

(GMMP), which will involve scouring and analyzing tens of thousands of news media content to gather data on how women and men are portrayed in news around the world; GMMP results are used in research, training, media literacy education, advocacy and lobbying work for gender equality.

30 communication rights-related international events and consultations, held in about

15 countries, were participated in, or organised by staff as part of its outreach and networking efforts

11 statements and calls to action were issued to mark UN International Days specific to communication and other human rights, and in response to humanitarian and other crises

105 news and feature articles were written and shared on social media to raise awareness about communication rights-related issues and to put a spotlight on supported projects that address them.

50 commentaries were published and shared on social media assessing communication developments and their impact on people's rights

2019 Year in Review

In a year of polarized politics, attacks on independent journalism, xenophobia, and growing digital monopolies, WACC is all the more committed to speak out and act for communication that is accessible, affordable, inclusive, accountable, participatory, diverse, and equitable.

WACC addresses the challenges of the global communications landscape through evidence gathering, networking, capacity building and advocacy. We listen and respond to the needs and perspectives of grassroots organisations and communities; gather and analyse evidence as a solid foundation for policy and action; build capacity of marginalized and vulnerable communities; and expand international networks and advocacy to promote, respect and fulfil communication rights.

Communication rights for migrants and refugees

As the number of people globally forced to migrate continues to rise, WACC is addressing the multitude of communication concerns for people on the move: access to information, media representation, sharing their own news and participating in new communities and societies – all in an increasingly complex political, cultural and digital communication landscape.

“Can Migrants Make Themselves Heard in the Age of National Populism?” was the topic of WACC’s panel discussion at the Deutsche Welle Global Media Forum, May 27-28 in Bonn, Germany. Moderated by WACC’s General Secretary Philip Lee, speakers from



Colombia, India, Africa and Europe shared their insights about WACC-supported projects that have used media-based strategies to advance the rights of migrants and refugees. These initiatives have helped migrants and refugees gain greater access to communication, use communication platforms to share information and needs, develop media literacy skills and challenge dominant narratives about migration.

A WACC initiative entitled “Among Neighbours: Network of Colombian and Venezuelan Citizen Journalists,” was launched in early 2019 to promote access to information and help prevent xenophobia. (See page 10)



In Europe, WACC members are building on a previous project that focused on media representation of migrants in seven European countries. WACC Europe is currently assessing approaches to combat social media hate speech and disinformation particularly involving migrants and refugees. The regional association aims to produce initial guidelines and examples of good practice in addressing hate speech online for individuals and communicators in churches and community groups.

As WACC media monitoring has shown in several regions, with unprecedented levels of displacement around the world, the theme of migrants and refugees have become regular news yet the genuine voices and experiences of individuals and their families are rarely heard.

Thus it is all the more relevant that the WACC-Signis Human Rights Award 2018, announced in April 2019, went to *Eldorado*, a film directed by Markus

Imhoof (Switzerland) that reveals the hidden dimension of the treatment of migrants and refugees in Europe.



Photo: UCC-CO

Advancing the role of women in the news

The Global Media Monitoring Project (GMMP) was awarded the Donald H. McGannon Award at the United Church of Christ’s 37th annual Everett C. Parker Ethics in Telecommunications Lecture and Awards Breakfast October 17, in Washington, D.C. GMMP global coordinator and WACC programme manager Dr. Sarah Macharia described the honour as an affirmation of the project, the network of volunteers, and the movement for gender equality.

The global commitment to end gender inequality will not advance unless attention is also given to achieving gender parity in media and communication. As Macharia told a high-level dialogue at the 63rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women at the UN headquarters in New York City March 13, “Media are key agents in the socialization process, the process through which we internalize

Photo: DW

the norms and ideologies of the societies in which we live.”

This reality underpins the preparation for the 6th Global Media Monitoring Project in 2020. (See page 7)

Tackling communication rights in a digital age

The complexity and speed of change in the digital media landscape requires a solid and multi-faceted response that is integrated and strengthens individuals, organizations and communities to respond to the challenges and opportunities of the digital age.

In April 2019, WACC Europe in cooperation with the Conference of European Churches and Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland held its regional assembly and seminar on the theme, “What makes us so angry? Hate speech, fake news and communication rights” with 50 participants from church and ecumenical organizations across Europe. Case studies and research grounded discussion on possible actions to counter disinformation and hate speech at individual and organizational level.

Truth, human dignity and non-violence are three universal principles that ought to “shape and define communication rights in a divided world,” said WACC General Secretary Philip Lee in his keynote address to the seminar.

WACC’s expertise and connections make it uniquely positioned to build bridges of research, debate and action across sectors to facilitate a



Photo: Juha Kinanen

Reaffirming many voices in our one world

In September 2019, WACC launched a new web platform for its Centre for Communication Rights to support vibrant citizen media, democratic communication ecosystems and open access to information and knowledge. With the tagline, “Many Voices, One World”, the hub recognises the lasting relevance of the 1980 MacBride Report which highlighted the critical relationship between democratic media systems and civil society participation.

Through other platforms, too, WACC raises the visibility of communication lessons from grassroots communities and evidence from its research to impact policy, education and media practices. This includes presentations at conferences, such as the Commission on the Status of Women in March, the International Association for Media and Communication

Research Conference in July, and the 50th anniversary international conference of the Catholic Media Council (CAMECO) in November.



All these efforts underscore that although our world has changed dramatically and all kinds of communications revolutions have taken place – people and communities still need access to the information and knowledge that will help improve their lives.

To that end, WACC continues its concerted efforts to ensure that everyone has the knowledge, the access, the means and the dignity to be able to engage in transparent,

Effective management

With two registered offices, in the United Kingdom and Canada, WACC has taken steps to streamline its governance system, eliminate duplicate membership requirements, and achieve greater administrative efficiency so that more human and financial resources can be directed towards programme.

In 2019, new global officers and a board of directors were elected who oversee WACC as a whole. (See page 15)

informed, and democratic debate. When this happens, communication can create openness and build trust, and establish a path to a more just and more peaceful world.

movement for communication rights and responsibilities in this digital age. Through exploring issues in *Media Development* and No-Nonsense Guides, joining global alliances such as the Just Net Coalition, and working with partners to bring a communication rights-based analysis of digital communication, WACC is raising awareness of the human rights and realities that are at stake.

Empowering bottom-up change

In the conviction that sustainable development requires communication rights, WACC has listened to the needs of grassroots organizations and supported their local initiatives, which use traditional and new media to address specific challenges. From enabling a successful public campaign by Newar Indigenous peoples seeking compensation due to displacement by a road expansion in Kathmandu Valley, to building the research and radio production skills of 50 young Kankuamo people in Colombia, WACC’s support and accompaniment not only makes a significant difference to local

communities, but helps to connect project partners, and apply methods and learning to wider advocacy for communication rights.

In 2019, for example, WACC convened a meeting of its project partners across the Caribbean Feb. 25 to 27 to reflect on challenges and opportunities around communication rights and linguistic diversity, particularly in relation to sustainable development. The conference explored questions such as: How can civil society in the region forge stronger links to promote greater cooperation given the linguistic diversity? How should countries adapt to meet the linguistic needs of migrants? What role does gender play in tensions around language use? Can digital communication help advance linguistic rights, enhance participation, and promote regional integration?

The recommendations stemming from this meeting of partners will be critical for WACC’s programmatic strategy for the Caribbean region in the next few years. These recommendations will also guide WACC’s advocacy and research efforts in relation to linguistic rights and sustainable development more broadly.



Photo: DW

Spotlight: Global Media Monitoring Project

The countdown has begun for WACC's next Global Media Monitoring Project (GMMP).

The 2020 research on gender equality in the world's news media is a highly-anticipated one – coming on the heels of the global #MeToo movement and in the same year as the Beijing+25 celebrations.

Did #MeToo – which exposed sexual violence experienced by a number of famous and ordinary women – have an impact on the news media? Did it change the way journalists cover stories about sexual assault and harassment? What has changed since Beijing Platform of Action's Section J called for “a balanced and non-stereotyped portrayal of women in the media” in 1995?

These are just a few questions whose answers will provide important directions for policy, education and advocacy by organisations and individuals around the world. GMMP preparations are advancing – from training workshops to the release of monitoring methodology guides and coding tools. Efforts to fund this work locally and internationally are ongoing and will continue beyond data-gathering day.

Women's rights organizations, grassroots groups, media associations, faith-based and interfaith organizations, university students and researchers from 128 countries so far have signed on as volunteers. National coordinators are still being recruited, with the aim of increasing participation in more countries than ever before. GMMP – the largest and longest-running research and advocacy initiative on women's representation in the media – has been held every five years since 1995. GMMP 2020 is the sixth in the series and has received backing from institutions such as UN Women and UNESCO.



Left: The new logo of the Global Media Monitoring Project. Image: Saskia Rowley

Above Right: Gender and Communication Rights partners at a consultation in Nairobi discuss preparations for the 2020 Global Media Monitoring Project (GMMP) and advocacy plans for the Beijing+25 celebrations. Photo: Sarita Shrestha

Right: Gender and Communication Rights partners pose after the consultation. Photo: Yeama Thompson

Stories from Project Partners

WACC helps to build capacity and to advance the work of its partner organizations under two programme areas: Communication for Social Change and Gender & Communication

Communication for Social Change

With the convergence of traditional and digital media, WACC sees an opportunity to focus on how media platforms can help advance communication rights in practice, while also contributing to broader social change. Projects supported under this programme strengthen the work of civil society organizations in the implementation of efforts such as citizen journalism, community media, citizen-led media for peace, and “monitoring of poverty reporting” to advance the democratic participation and active citizenship of marginalized peoples and communities

Here are examples of the local impact:

Georgia: School-based media clubs foster youth engagement

One hundred students from four public schools and one private school in Georgia are now providing weekly broadcast and blogs on issues that matter to them, including human rights, gender equality and bullying. WACC partner Helping Hand, a women-run civil society organisation based in Tbilisi, conducted training and workshops on issues around media literacy, bullying, tolerance, gender equality, civic engagement and journalism, under its Youth-School Platform for Citizen Journalism



Photo: Helping Hand

Program. The pilot project aimed to reduce rates of violence, increase student engagement and build civic participation among youth ages 14-17. It also provided support to local teachers and administrators. The project responds to the fact that in Georgia, several issues undermine the realization and implementation of social, economic and cultural rights, especially among vulnerable groups such as women, youth and minorities. These include sexism, high rates of violence, violation of freedom of religion, and misinformation. Helping Hand believes that efforts to address these challenges and build a more inclusive and rights-based society must begin with young people.

Philippines: Youth acquire media literacy skills

With digital platforms being “misused and weaponised” in the Philippines, the Communication Foundation for Asia, a WACC partner, conducted several activities that developed a model for youth to acquire critical

thinking skills about media issues. In April, 200 students (ages 12-16), 80 teachers, 100 church youth leaders and 50 adult church leaders from the Philippines took part in a forum and talkathon on fake news, cyberbullying and other issues. The project also convened a series of seminars involving educators, academics, activists, and bloggers in order to raise awareness about digitally-enabled misinformation and disinformation. This resulted in the development of a code of conduct for online

communication in the Philippines. Building the media literacy skills of youth is crucial since they constitute the highest percentage of social media users. Filipinos spend the most time on the Internet and social media, averaging about 10 hours online each day, according to a report on online habits.

Dominican Republic: Ethical reporting guide, awareness-raising campaign address xenophobic discourse

In recent years, and especially since a court ruling that undermined the immigration and citizenship status of Dominicans of Haitian descent, there has been a noticeable growth in racist and xenophobic discourse in traditional media and digital platforms in the Dominican Republic.

In response, Espacio de Comunicación Insular, through its online community radio station Radio Cimarrona, carried out research about the impact of xenophobic discourse, developed a guide for ethical reporting, and launched an awareness raising campaign about the issue.

About 60 journalists and students from different universities in Santo Domingo, Santiago, and El Cibao, took part in several activities. Espacio de Comunicación Insular partnered with the national association of journalists, Colegio Dominicano de Periodistas (CDP) to undertake the project.

Espacio de Comunicación Insular is a civil society organization established in 2005 whose mandate is to advance communication rights, encourage inter-cultural dialogue, and promote the rights of migrants, especially in relation to Dominican-Haitian relations.

Nepal: Empowering Indigenous communities on Free, Prior, and Informed Consent

With Indigenous peoples being negatively affected by hydropower generation projects taking place across Nepal, community radio station Kalinchowk FM 106.4 Mhz has created a space for affected communities to be heard and to communicate their own social and environmental assessments in their own language.

Kalinchowk FM convened a series of 10 radio-mediated dialogues involving about 200 Indigenous leaders, government officials, private sector investors and operators of new hydroelectric projects. They produced several hours of programming on the subject, which were broadcast live as well as through online channels. The station serves about 700,000 people in five districts: Dolakha, Ramechhap, Okhaldhunga, Solukhumbu, and Sindhuli. Dolhaka district hosts some of Nepal’s largest hydroelectric power plants. In recent years, the government has issued approximately 12 new licenses for



Photo: CFA



Photo: Kalinchowk FM

hydroelectric power projects seeking to harness the energy potential of the Khimti river; most of these new projects are located on traditional Indigenous lands. None of these projects have respected the right of Indigenous communities to Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC), as set forth by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, ILO Convention 169, and the UN business and human rights principles.

The project emphasized the rights of Indigenous peoples and the responsibilities of states and the private sector vis-a-vis Indigenous peoples according to national and international frameworks. Co-funded by WACC and Cultural Survival, it has served as a model for community radio stations facing similar challenges.

Gender & Communication

These projects examine the gender dimension of news reports through media monitoring. Findings are applied to change actions such as awareness creation, critical media literacy training, advocacy and engagement with media professionals on gender issues in media policy and practice.

The focus has been on supporting civil society groups in areas of the Global South lacking a strong sub-regional or regional coordination of gender and media work. Projects monitored gender portrayal and representation in major national or regional print, radio, television and/or Internet news media.

Egypt: Breaking gender stereotypes in drama

Appropriate Communication Techniques for Development (ACT), an NGO based in Heliopolis, a northeastern suburb of Cairo, developed a set of media monitoring tools and analyzed 11 television dramas to examine the roles portrayed by women. Monitoring took place during the 2019 Ramadan, May 5 to June 3. A report detailing its findings and calls for action is in the works and will be shared with media, government and television producers. The project emphasizes the role that media can play in preventing violence against women, changing society's perceptions of gender roles, and reporting on violence against women, while giving them a platform to voice their issues.



Photo: @nattyflo/Unsplash

Mexico: Analyzing media exclusion of women land rights defenders

The land rights movement in Mexico has a strong female presence, and yet their demands for justice for their communities are often ignored by the news media. Using the methodology developed by WACC's Global Media Monitoring Project, Comunicación e Información de la Mujer A.C (CIMAC) monitored Mexico's top print, broadcast and digital media to gather evidence on the extent of their exclusion. Initial results of the study, conducted June 4 to July 6, 2019, show that "sexism in the coverage of the defense of land and territory is expressed in the invisibility of women linked to this movement," said CIMAC. It also showed that fewer than 1% per cent of stories covered by media related to defense of land and territory and that only two of these stories featured women as sources and subjects, none of them are land rights defenders.

Media monitoring results will be disseminated to local media and other stakeholders, with the aim of sensitizing journalists and the media on the active role played by women in the movements, to promote non-sexist, gender aware and intersectional journalism in mainstream and social media.



Photo: Novi Put

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Monitoring gender portrayal in stories about peace, politics and the economy

News media in Bosnia and Herzegovina leave little or no room at all for women in stories about peace and security, the economy, politics, and other areas. When women do appear, they are often portrayed as dependent people and sex symbols. This is "very worrying," says the association Novi Put, noting that the country's latest census shows that women now make up the majority of the population. From June 1 to July 31, 2019, Novi Put began collecting in-depth qualitative and quantitative data on gender portrayal in Bosnia and Herzegovina's major print and digital news media. Among the results: Women constituted only 6% of the news on peace and security, economy and 17% on gender-based violence stories. Evidence and feedback gathered were presented in 12 workshops attended by women in politics, economy and journalism, with the aim of establishing relationships to increase the visibility and improve coverage of women. At least five other workshops are being planned for editors, journalists,

representatives of women's groups and the general public where research findings will be shared with the intention of improving gender portrayal in the news.

Nigeria: Media Reportage of Land Rights & Agricultural Development

The Nigerian government has made commitments to alleviate the plight of women, yet studies have shown no significant improvement on their situation. Media coverage also does not address core issues such as gender, land rights and agricultural empowerment, which raises critical questions about their watchdog role and ethical responsibilities. Media and Gender Enlightenment Initiative, a local NGO, is analysing new media content, which will provide much-needed data to train reporters for the agriculture, gender and economic empowerment beats, equipping them with the skills to produce effective gender-aware stories.

At the Border: Migration and Communication Rights

The influx in recent years of an unprecedented number of Venezuelan migrants in Colombia has been described by the International Office of Migration as “the largest displacement in Latin America’s history.”

As a result of Venezuela’s political and economic turmoil, about 1.6 million Venezuelan migrants now live in Colombia, comprising about 3.4% of the total population. More than 770,000 of them arrived between September 2018 to 2019. In 2020, an additional 2.5 million are expected to emigrate, many of them headed to Colombia, which has an open migration policy so far.

This situation has given rise to communication and information challenges. These include limited access to relevant information by migrants and host communities, misinformation, poor access to communication platforms, and the prevalence of negative stereotypes that contribute to a culture of distrust, xenophobia and in some cases discrimination towards migrants

In response to this phenomenon, in early 2019 WACC launched “Among Neighbours: Network of Colombian and Venezuelan Citizen Journalists,” which sought to promote access to information and help prevent xenophobia. WACC partnered with Grupo Comunicarte and Fundacion Comunicacion Positiva. The project established a network of 22 citizen reporters — 16 in Colombia and 6 in Venezuela – linked to community and university radios in the border area and



in Bogota. The network has actively contributed to the development of a migration narrative based on human rights and intercultural dialogue through hundreds of media productions that have reached hundreds of thousands of people in both countries.

In 2020, the initiative aims to increase the number of citizen network members, deepen the training of members in producing audiovisual content on urgent issues such as child protection, and produce a new series

promoting access to information on migrant rights, access to essential services, and intercultural dialogue.

This initiative was carried out thanks to the generous support of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Above: Members of “Among Neighbours: Network of Colombian and Venezuelan Citizen Journalists,” a project launched by WACC to promote access to information and help prevent xenophobia in Colombia following an influx of Venezuelan migrants in recent years. Photo: Grupo Comunicarte

Right: Venezuelans wait to cross border between Ecuador and Colombia. Photo: UNHCR/Jaime Gimenez Sanchez de la Blanca



What's in store for 2020 and beyond

WACC will continue its highly-regarded and essential work on the representation of women in the world's news media. The Global Media Monitoring Project (GMMP) will take place for the sixth time and its findings made public before the end of the year. We are hoping that far more than 24% (the evidence produced by GMMP 2015) of subjects and sources in newspaper, TV, radio, and digital news stories are women.

WACC will also be continuing to apply its media monitoring methodology to the representation of migrants, refugees and displaced persons in the news. We shall be pulling together our media monitoring data along with different sources of evidence in order to advocate for more balanced and accurate portrayals and to encourage policy and community responses based on facts and real needs rather than stereotypes and misinformation.

WACC will be reflecting on communication rights, duties, and responsibilities in an era of digital media. Digital platforms offer powerful tools for justice, education, mission and understanding in a world where communication is key to social justice and sustainable development. However, we have also seen the same platforms used for ideologically motivated campaigns of "fake news" that undermine democratic processes and responsible journalism.



A group of nursery gardeners, who are Nigerian refugees, work in a tree nursery in Minawao refugee camp, Cameroon. The project – supported by the Lutheran World Federation Service – aims to plant more than 100,000 plants in “green spaces, a step in alleviating the impact of climate change. Photo: Albin Hillert

The ability of civil society to access information, freely participate in decisions that affect it, and demand accountability from government and public services is under threat. Expanding “shrinking public space” is an urgent theme for communication rights and WACC will focus on strengthening alternative voices and enabling people and communities to be heard where it matters most.

Lastly, in response to the need for urgent action of all kinds, WACC is exploring how traditional knowledge can help tackle the climate crisis. Gathering traditional knowledge and making it available in a variety of formats – including digital – will provide the basis for long-term adaptation, mitigation, and survival. It is also a form of information and knowledge exchange that can only improve and strengthen resilience.



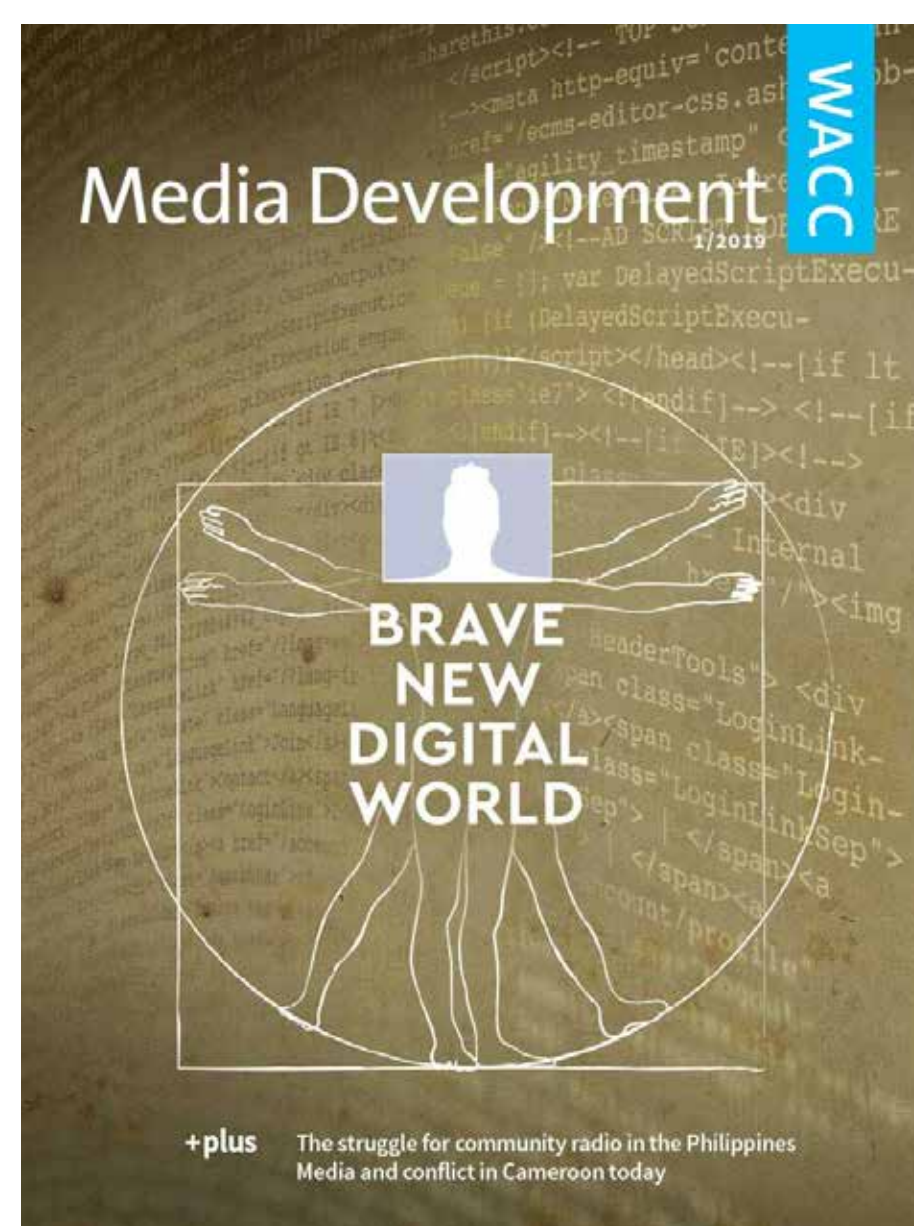
Communication is key to social justice and sustainable development. Photo: Albin Hillert

Media Development 2019

Media Development is an international quarterly journal dedicated to the theory and practice of communication around the world. Many contributors write from the perspective of the Global South, highlighting social, cultural, and spiritual values.

Media Development publishes informed and critical opinions on a broad range of topics; significant documents and materials; reports of events and conferences; a section on cinema; occasional book reviews.

Media Development seeks to keep abreast of developments in the field of mass, community and social media and to articulate common concerns about equality, justice and human dignity in communication.



Media Development 1/2019

Brave New Digital World

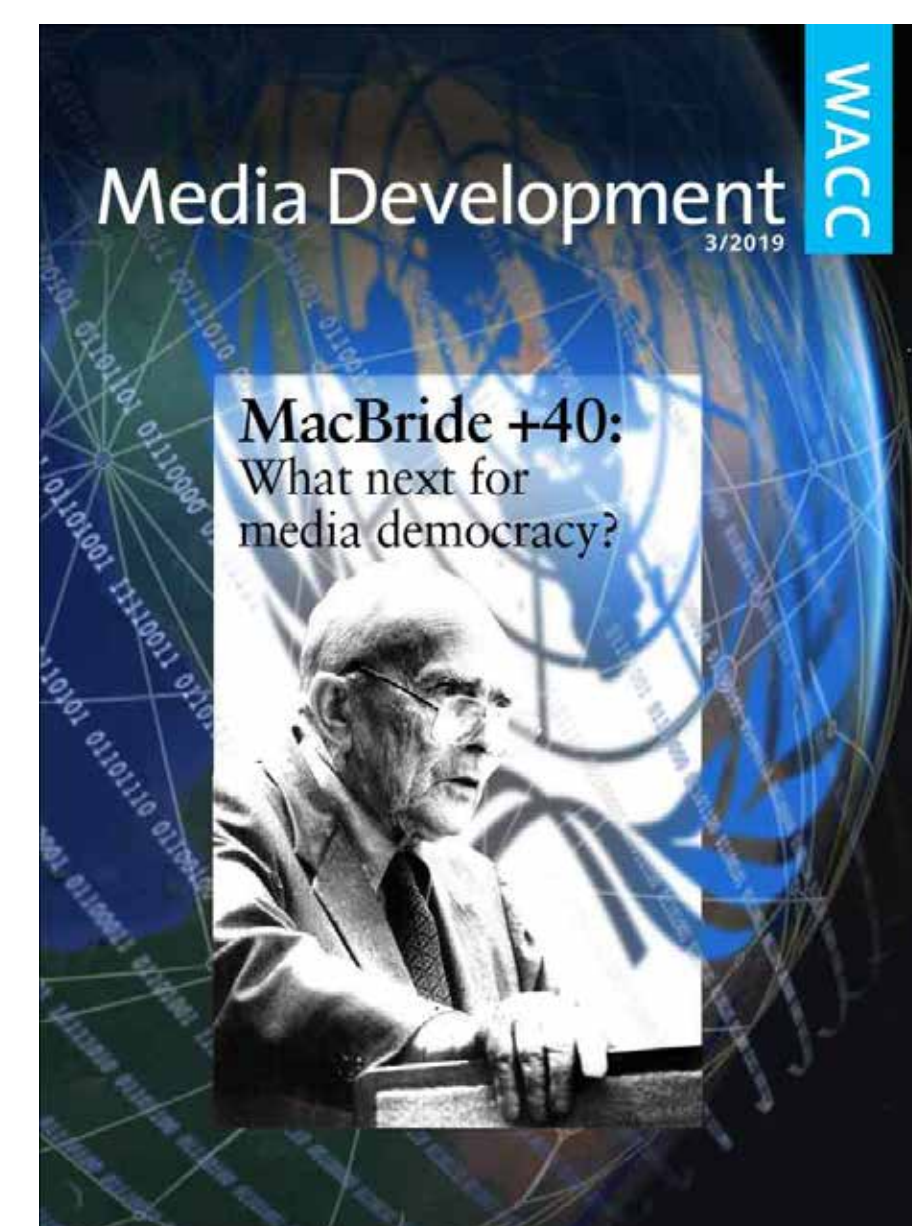
What are the challenges confronting a society increasingly dependent on digital technologies? Who is making the rules and determining the values behind using social media? How are societies adapting and what are the prospects for the future?



Media Development 2/2019

Wanted: Sustainable Development Goal 18

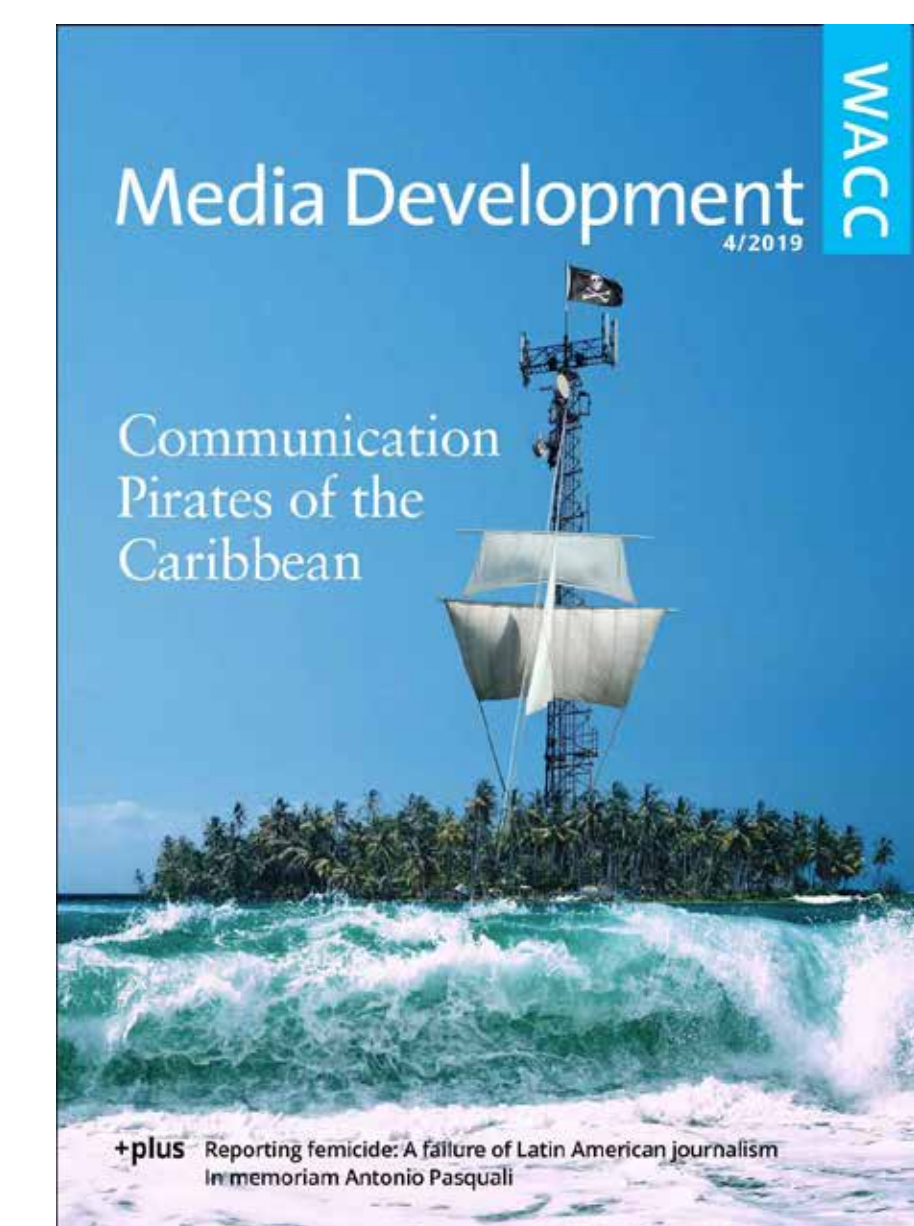
In search of the missing UN Sustainable Development Goal that underpins all the other SDGs. Goal 18: Expand and strengthen public civic spaces with the aim of contributing to an informed debate about society, its values and priorities, and, above all, to our common future.



Media Development 3/2019

MacBride +40: What next for media democracy?

UNESCO's report on global communication problems – “Many Voices, One World” – appeared in 1980, before the digital era. If the MacBride Commission were set up today, what issues would it look into? What constraints would it find? What new possibilities would it discover?



Media Development 4/2019

Communication Pirates of the Caribbean

The Caribbean is a complex region of diverse communication challenges that demand diverse approaches and solutions. Civil society requires a strong voice in policy-making and the public needs to be educated about pitfalls and challenges if the region's island nations are to achieve greater social progress.

Financial Overview

WACC Global raised C\$1.97 million in 2019 to fund its programmes. This exceeded the C\$1.8 million raised in 2018. Over 82% came in the form of grants from our long-standing contributors. The remaining 18% was self-generated from gains on investment liquidation, hosting fee revenues and rental income.

For comparison, in 2018, self-generated income accounted for 22% of total revenues. WACC's board, management and staff remain financially prudent, and did everything possible to minimize costs, while maximizing social impact around the world in 2019. We increased program expenses by 1% to 93% of the total expenditure for the year.

Our global members, boards and staff continue to work closely with our friends and partners to raise funds and to diversify our donor base to ensure the financial sustainability of the organization.

With adequate funding and careful management, we will continue to promote communication as an essential aspect of all people's right to life, dignity and full participation in their communities.

Note: Financial figures provided are pre-audit. Audited accounts are available upon request.

Income by Source

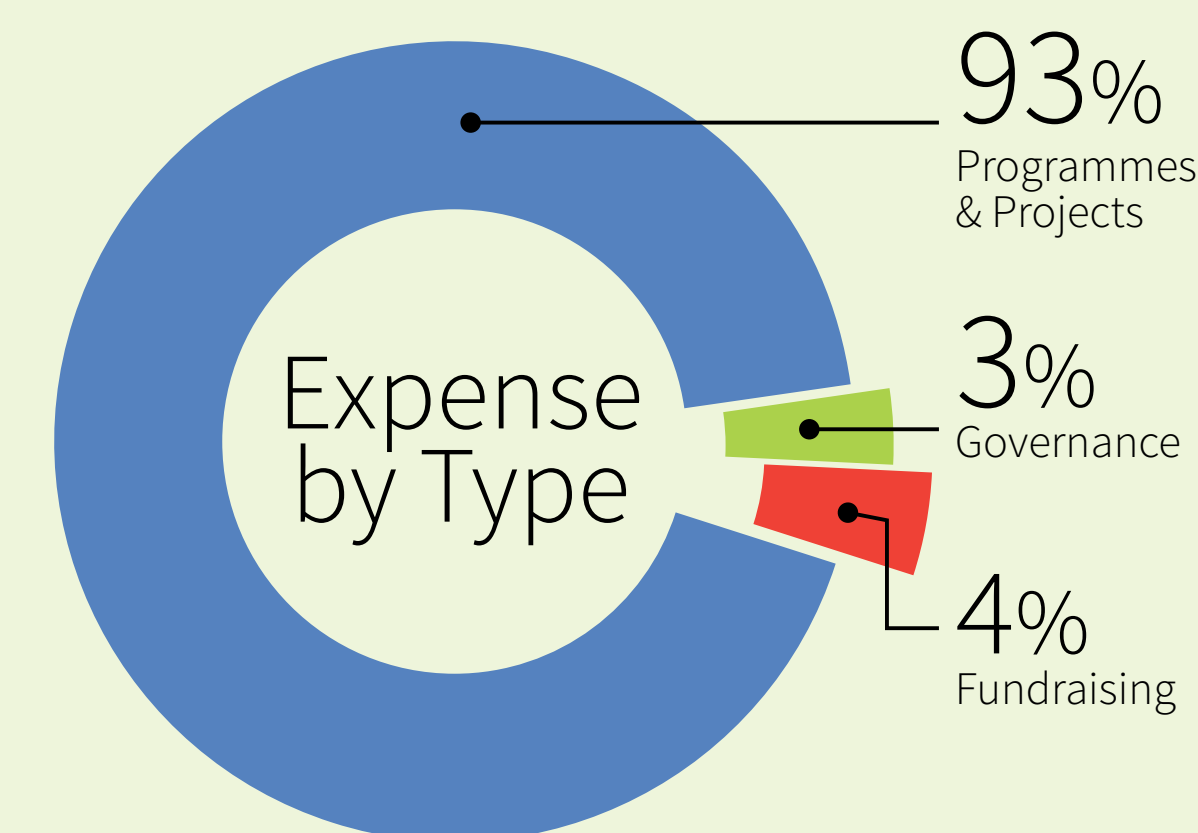
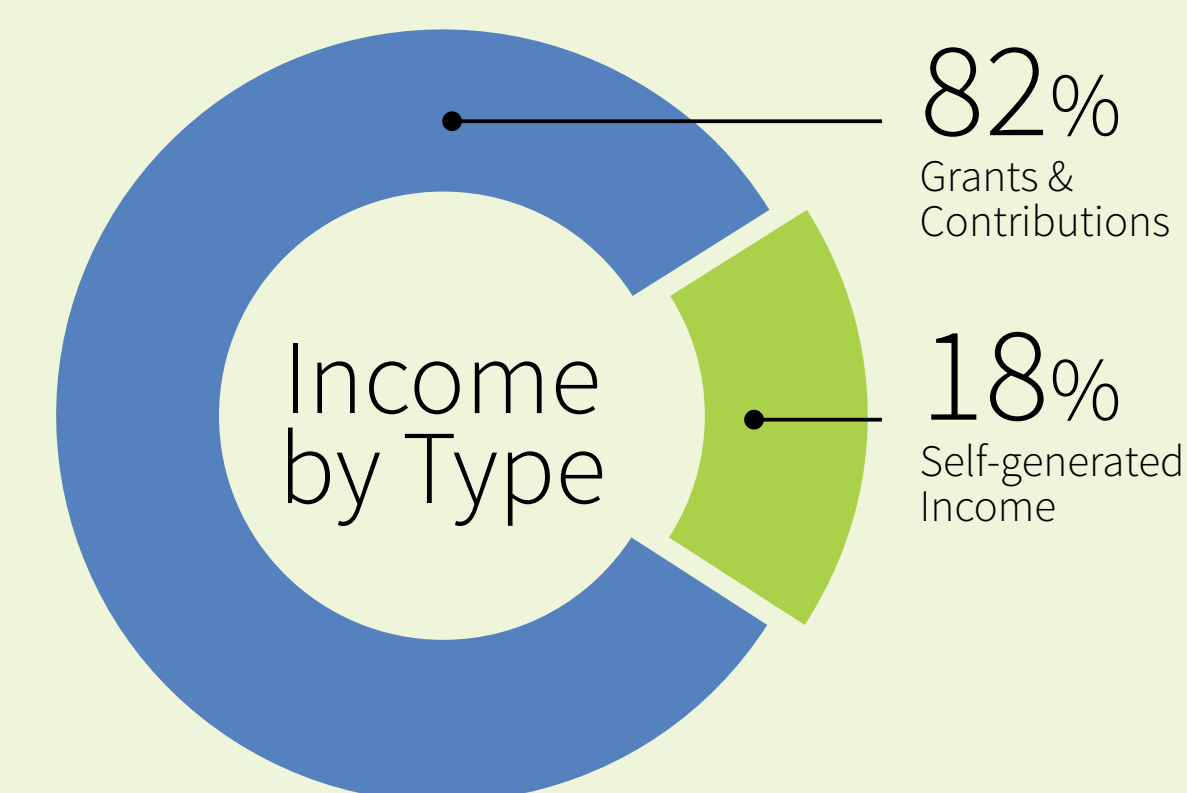
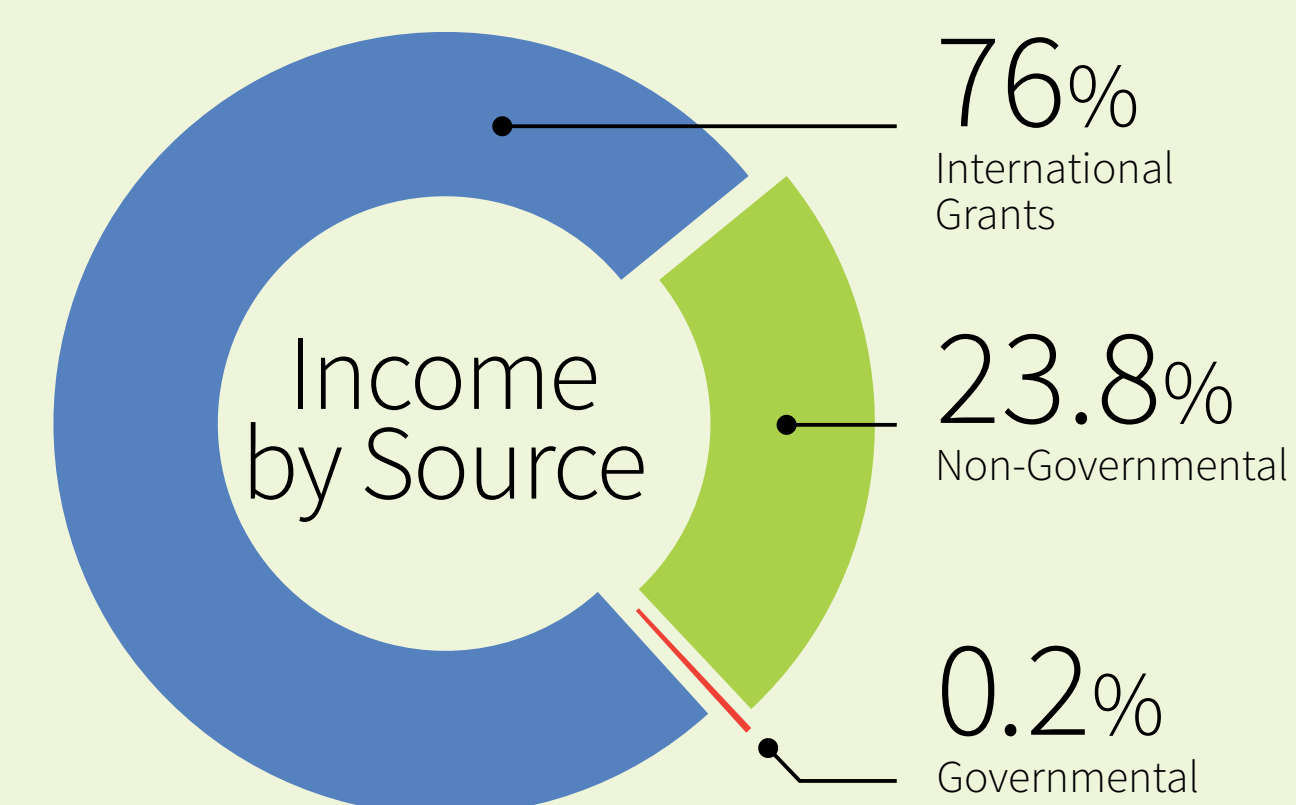
Governmental	\$ 3,268	.2%
International Grants	\$ 1,499,847	76%
Non-Governmental	\$ 470,354	23.8%
Grand Total	\$ 1,973,469	100%

Income by Type

Grants & Contributions	\$ 1,620,272	82%
Self-generated Income	\$ 353,197	18%
	\$ 1,973,469	100%

Expenses by Type

Programmes & Projects	\$ 2,071,075	93%
Governance	\$ 75,531	3%
Fundraising	\$ 79,485	4%
	\$ 2,226,091	100%



Funding Partners

In alphabetical order the current and most recent funding partners are:

	Anglican Communion		Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland		Primate's World Relief and Development Fund
	Bread for the World		Food and Agriculture Organization		Service Canada Summer Jobs
	Centre for Communication Rights		FreePress		Tamang Society of California
	Council for World Mission		Internews		UNESCO-IPDC
	Cultural Survival		Otto per Mille of the Waldensian Church		United Church of Canada
	Evangelical Lutheran Church of America		Pacific Media Assistance Scheme		UN Women

WACC Membership and Organization



Membership in WACC is an opportunity to be part of a growing network of communicators worldwide who are bringing about greater equality and social justice through an emphasis on rights and responsibilities. Members of WACC are organizations and individuals committed to promoting communication as essential for people's dignity and participation in communities.

WACC's members are organized in eight regions – Africa, Asia, Caribbean, Europe, Latin America, Middle East, North America, and Pacific – which provide opportunities for networking and regional projects. Through the support and active engagement of hundreds of WACC's members and partners, initiatives such as the Global Media Monitoring Project and Media and Migration are not only made possible, but provide ground-breaking evidence and help support strong advocacy at local, national and international levels.

In 2019, a new WACC governance structure was implemented to resolve duplicate membership and governance structures between WACC UK and WACC Canada. From May 2019, the WACC UK Board of Directors has oversight of the whole association, while a focused WACC Canada Board ensures WACC's viability and compliance with Canadian regulations.

WACC UK officers and directors (2019-2023)

- President** Embert Charles, Saint Lucia
- Vice-President** Mathilde Kpalla, Togo
- Vice-President** Sharon Bhagwan-Rolls, Fiji
- Treasurer** Stephen Brown, France
- Gregg Brekke, USA
- Jim McDonnell, UK
- David Morales Alba, Colombia
- Vincent Rajkumar, India
- Rania Rashad William, Egypt
- Ary Régis, Haiti
- Alba Sabaté Gauxachs, Spain
- Philip Lee, WACC General Secretary (ex officio)

WACC Canada Board (2019-2023)

- Embert Charles, Saint Lucia (WACC President)
- Stephen Brown, France (WACC Treasurer)
- Glory Dharmaraj, USA (WACC North America President)
- Kristine Greenaway, Canada
- Philip Lee, WACC General Secretary (ex officio)

Five Communicators join Honorary Life Members roster

A journalist, a cultural activist, a social communicator, a former WACC director of research, and a social justice activist have been named 2019 Honorary Life Members by WACC's Board of Directors.



Alma D. Montoya Chavarriaga



José Luis Aguirre Alvis



Pradip N. Thomas



Monsignor Patrick A.B. Anthony



Gianna Urizio

WACC Staff 2019

Philip Lee
General Secretary

Sara Speicher
Deputy General Secretary

Programmes

Sarah Macharia
Programme Manager – Gender and Communication; Monitoring Rural Poverty Reporting

Gisèle Langendries
Administrator for Programmes and Funding

Lorenzo Vargas
Programme Manager – Communication for Social Change

Administration

Joseph Patterson
Financial Controller

Lisa Gu
Accounting Assistant

Shari McMaster
Administrative Coordinator and Board Liaison

Consultants

Marites (Tess) Sison *Communications Consultant*
Khodeza Hossain *Research Coordination Consultant*
Saskia Rowley *Design Consultant*
Keith Nunn *IT Consultant*

Interns and Volunteers

Robert Gray



Photos: (Top) Philip Lee, WACC General Secretary, and Lorenzo Vargas, WACC manager for Communication for Social Change at the WACC Board of Directors meeting in London, UK. Photo: Gregg Brekke
 (Above left): WACC Gender and Communication manager Sarah Macharia at the UN Commission on the Status of Women meeting.
 (Above right): Deputy Secretary General Sara Speicher (right) and Administrative Coordinator Shari McMaster. Photo: Gregg Brekke

Connect with us

WACC Global

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 E-mail: wacc@waccglobal.org
 Website: waccglobal.org



LinkedIn: <https://ca.linkedin.com/company/world-association-for-christian-communication-wacc>

Global Media Monitoring Project

Website: whomakesthenews.org
 Facebook: @Global.Media.Monitoring.Project
 Twitter: @whomakesthenews
 Instagram: @gmmpglobal

Centre for Communication Rights

Website: ccrvoices.org
 Facebook: @ccrvoices
 Instagram: @ccrvoices
 Twitter: @ccrvoices

WACC is a member of ACT Alliance
actalliance

The World Association for Christian Communication is registered in Canada as a not-for-profit corporation (438311-7) and an incorporated charitable organisation (number 83970 9524 RR0001) with its offices at 308 Main Street, Toronto ON, M4C 4X7.

WACC is also a UK Registered Charity (number 296073) and a Company registered in England and Wales (number 2082273) with its Registered Office at 16 Tavistock Crescent, London W11 1AP, United Kingdom.